GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:848
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
National Air Quality Index
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Air Quality Index has been launched in the recent past and if so, the details thereof along with its aims and objectives;
(b) the manner in which the air quality is likely to be monitored;
(c) the details of cities in which air quality would be monitored; and
(d) the details of funds allocated for the same during the current financial year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) The National Air Quality Index (AQI) has been launched by Hon''ble Prime Minister on April 06, 2015. AQI is a tool loaded in the web portal of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for public information on the status of ambient air quality of selected cities considering eight pollutants i.e. Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, PM10, PM2.5, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia for short term (upto 24 hourly) norms as prescribed in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS-2009). The afore-said air pollutants are monitored by Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) by CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards. There are six AQI categories, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. Each of these categories is decided based on ambient concentration values of air pollutants and their likely health impacts. The National AQI is a significant tool helping the country in Decision Supporting System as a part of e-Governance measures.

(c) & (d) CPCB started disseminating the Air Quality Index (AQI) for 10 cities based on the data CAAQM stations. At present, 22 cities are connected to the web-based system of National AQI. They are Agra, Ahmadabad, Bangaluru, Chandrapur, Chennai, Delhi, Faridabad, Gaya, Gurgaon, Haldia, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mumbai, Muzaffarpur, Navi Mumbai, Panchkula, Patna, Pune and Varanasi. According to CPCB, an amount of ? 9, 01, 21, 917 has been released to State and UT Governments including metropolitan cities for air quality monitoring under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme during 2015-16 (till January, 2016).
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